

Ag Conference Call Notes

April 16, 2007

9 a.m.

Present: Tom McCarthy, Michelle Johnson, Cindy Martens, Ken Hessenius, Dan Olson, Ted Petersen, Josh Sobaski, Randy Clark, Gene Tinker, Claire Hruby and Karen Grimes

Crop Rotations and RUSLE2: If a facility is using a long crop rotation (example 7 years) in their RUSLE2 calculations, their MMP must also reflect the 7-year rotation. The entire rotation should be shown on the management ID; this will require using two pages.

Solids stockpiling for open cattle lots: Please be sure to print SF 2369 or 459A.403 of the Iowa Code to refer to when addressing open lot stockpiling. This supersedes the IAC rules that are in our green books, 65.101(8). The rules have not been changed yet. This applies to all lots of all sizes. They may be in violation of federal law if stockpiles are not controlled; Iowa law is more lenient in this case.

Poultry Update: Gene is in the process of drafting a response to the Turkey Growers. He is putting together a history of our discussions, letters, rules, etc. He is also researching neighboring states to see how they enforce poultry manure. He has found that research shows nutrient elevation up to 24 inches below poultry stockpiles. This is especially important for protecting our groundwater that may be as shallow as 5 or 7 inches in many counties.

NMP Update: NMPs are needed for all NPDES facilities. Review will be done by the field offices. It will be a completeness review similar to what the AAs do for current MMPs. A checklist has been developed and will be sent to all the offices. The specialists will do the review because there are so many different forms being used for the NMP. It should be about a 15- to 30-minute procedure. NMPs are due by 7/31/07, but the NPDES permits state May 31, 2007. A letter will be developed that tells the producer their NMP has been reviewed. A letter and form will also be developed that tells the producer to do a public notice. An approval letter for the NMP should not be sent until the public notice is done. A procedure is also needed for public hearings if there are requests. The EPA final rule is still delayed, so Iowa still needs to go ahead as the State law requires it.

There was discussion as to what to do if producers do not submit their NMP as required or do not do their public notice. It was suggested to follow the same procedures as we follow with MMPs. An NOV reminder letter would be sent, followed by an NOR with penalty. It was noted that the requirements should be sent through List Serve, Eco News, etc., and possibly a letter sent again to all the producers with over 1,000 head of cattle. Letters, templates and articles need to be formulated, along with a set procedure.

Separation Distance to a confinement office was discussed. The office is part of the AFO structure if it's connected to the building containing animals. If it is a separate structure then it's not considered a part of the confinement for separation distances.

Abandoned Buildings-Buildings that are not being used on existing sites must still be reflected on the compliance fee form. It was noted that the compliance fee form doesn't clearly state capacity. Karen will redo the form to state maximum or design capacity, as well as clarifying that no open lot animals should be included on the compliance fee form.

Separate Locations There has been some concern that common MMP fields constituted common management. This is not the case. Common management does not include field application areas. Common area for manure disposal is defined as a pit, basin, etc... The field is application, not disposal.

AFO Siting Atlas Claire stated that the AFO Siting Atlas changed a bit. You now find the legal description using the “red tack” button. Confinement and open lots are now mapped by size.

AFO Database Be sure to send your wish list to Christine Spackman. This includes queries that you’d like to run.

DER Rule This was a topic of discussion. If you have questions regarding this please talk to Ken H.

Small Open Lots There was discussion of staff training for small open lot review. Engineer training on how to design these would be helpful. The training needs to stress the importance of the poor quality of “brown water” and that no water quality violations must be seen. Ken and Gene will be working on this. Tom M. stated that he had knowledge of an engineer in his area that would be a good starting point for training.

NPDES Review of forms, see Karen.

The next Ag Conference Call will be on Wednesday May 16th at 9 a.m. Please mark your calendars.

Submitted by Cindy Martens